

Proposed Amendments:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A weed trimmer cover assembly for attachment to a weed trimmer, comprising:
a front cover defining a front horizontal cover region disposed above a weed trimmer cutting element and covering a forward area of a horizontal circular cutting zone defined by a rotational cutting path of the cutting element,

a front vertical flange projecting downward from the front horizontal cover region and generally along a radius corresponding to and larger than a radius defined by the cutting zone;
and

a cover attachment means attached to the front cover and connecting the front cover to the weed trimmer, the cover attachment means further comprising a hinge wherein the front cover may be pivoted about the hinge and thereby raised upward along a range of positions from completely lowered downward to completely raised upward;

wherein the front horizontal cover region and the front vertical flange are configured to deflect debris being projected by the cutting element, thereby preventing projected debris from being distributed forward or upward and rearward relative to the weed trimmer.

2. (Presently amended) The weed trimmer cover assembly of claim 1, wherein the cover attachment means further comprises ~~a hinge and~~ a positional fixing linkage connected to the front cover, wherein the front cover may be pivoted about the hinge ~~connection and~~ thereby raised upward into a fixed position with the positional fixing linkage, the fixed position located along ~~a the~~ range of positions from completely lowered downward to completely raised upward;
and

~~wherein the front horizontal cover region and front vertical flange deflect debris being projected by the cutting element when the front cover is in the fixed position, thereby preventing the projected debris from being distributed upward and rearward relative to the weed trimmer.~~

Remarks:

Though independent claims 1 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC section 102(b) over the prior art, claims 2-10 and 12-20 stand "objected to." Claim 2 incorporates the limitations of claim 1 and provides additional claim limitations: (1) a *hinge* and (2) a *positional fixing linkage*